

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request her reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the abstract, the abstract is amended to be within 150 words and rid of the word "means".

In response to the Examiner's objection to Fig. 5, a replacement sheet including Fig. 5 is submitted, in which "prior art" is labeled for the left portion of the figure.

The independent claims 1 and 9 are amended to emphasize the light traveling characteristics of this invention without introducing new matter. Claim 2 and claim 10 are amended only to reflect the amendments to claim 1 and claim 9, respectively.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-20 are added in response to allowable subject matter granted by the Examiner in claims 3, 4, 8 and 11.

Claim 3 is rewritten as claim 13 in independent form. Claim 14, dependent on claim 13, corresponds to claim 4. Since claims 3 and 4 are allowable if rewritten in independent form, both claims 13 and 14 are allowable. Moreover, since claims 15-18 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 13, they are also allowable. Claim 8 is now recast as claim 18.

Claim 11 is rewritten as claim 19 in independent form. Since claim 11 is allowable if rewritten in independent form, claim 19 and therefore claim 20, being dependent on claim 19, are allowable.

#### 102(b) Rejection over Takamoto et al.

Regarding claims 1, 5, 9 and 12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takamoto et al ('417 B1):

The configuration of this invention is different from that of Takamoto et al., thereby having different light path and achieving different function. Specifically, the prisms in Takamoto et al. are arranged differently from this application. Referring to Figs. 6A and 6B of Takamoto et

Appl. No. 10/823,045

9/11

Amendment 12/14/2004  
Reply to OA of 09/14/2004

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al., the incoming light enters the input/output separating prism system 2 through the triangular pole prism 27; the OFF light is totally reflected at the surface 28b and the scattered light is totally reflected either at the surface 28b (for scattered light 62) or at the surface 27b (for scattered light 61). The examiner identifies prisms 28, 27 and 29 in Takamoto et al. with the first, second and third prisms in the present application, respectively, thus equating 27b/28a and 28b/29b to the first gap and the second gap in the present application. As a result, in Takamoto et al., the OFF light and the scattered light 62 from the DMD 3 are totally reflected at the boundary between the second gap (28b/29b) and the first prism (28), not at the boundary between the first gap and the second prism as in original claim 1 (or at the boundary of the second prism near the first gap as in the amended claim 1) of the present application. Since Takamoto et al. does not anticipate claim 1, claim 1 should not be rejected.

For the same reason, claim 9 of the present application is not anticipated by Takamoto et al. and should not be rejected.

Furthermore, since claim 5 depends on claim 1, which is now allowable, and claim 12 depends on claim 9, which is now allowable, both claim 5 and claim 12 should be allowable with respect to Takamoto et al.

102(e) Rejection over Okamori et al.

Regarding claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Okamori et al ('048 B1):

Claims 1 and 9 of this application disclose different configuration and method from that of Okamori et al ('048 B1) according to Figs. 4A and 4B of this application and Fig. 1 of Okamori et al. Thus, they have different light paths and also different means to accomplish different functions. Specifically, under the OFF mode of the present application, the light from the light path switching device is totally reflected at the boundary of the second prism near the first gap. However, in Okamori et al., only part of the OFF light from the light path switching device is reflected at the corresponding boundary (surface 122); the remaining of the OFF light is either reflected on or admitted through another surface (surface 123). See Fig. 1 of Okamori et al. Note that the surface 123 has no corresponding element in the present application. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Okamori et al. and should not be rejected.

Appl. No. 10/823,045

10/11

Amendment 12/14/2004  
Reply to OA of 09/14/2004

For the same reason, claim 9 of the present application is not anticipated by Okamori et al. and should not be rejected.

Therefore, claims 1 and 9 are patentable with respect to Okamori et al. Consequently, the dependent claims 2, 5, 6, 10 and 12 are patentable because they depend on patentable independent claims.

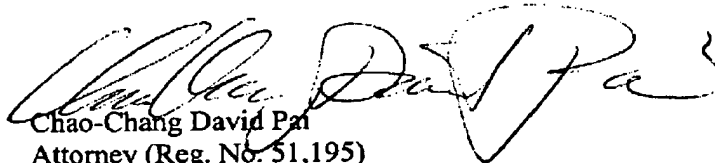
103(a) Rejection over Takamoto et al in view of Nishikawa et al.

The examiner also rejected claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamoto et al. in view of Nishikawa et al. However, since claims 6 and 7 depend on claim 1, which is patentable with respect to Takamoto according to the foregoing remarks, claims 6 and 7 should also be patentable.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and accordingly request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow all the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted:



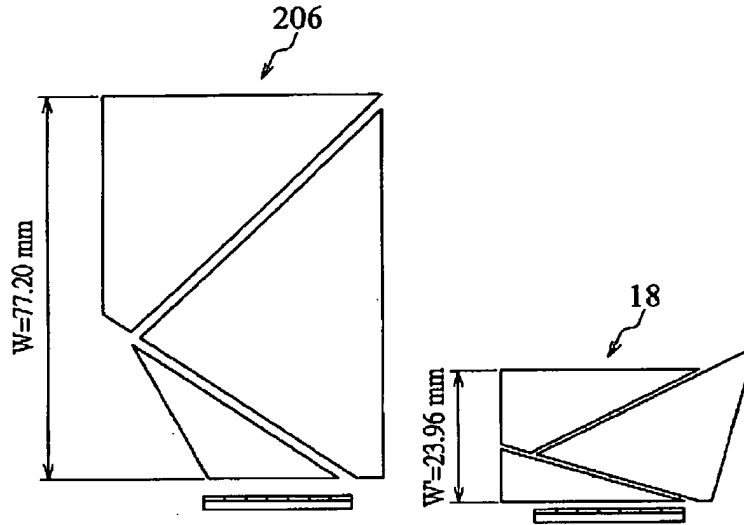
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Appl. No. 10/823,045

11/11

Amendment 12/14/2004  
Reply to OA of 09/14/2004

Appl. 10/823,045  
Amendment Dated Dec. 14, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of Sept. 14, 2004  
**Annotated Marked-Up Drawings**



*"Prior Art"*  
*is added.*

(PRIOR ART)

FIG. 5

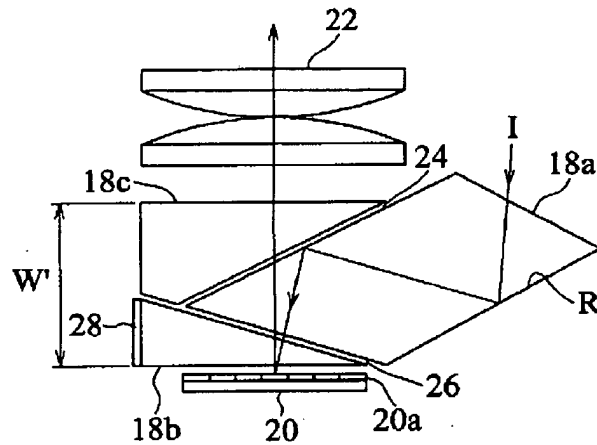


FIG. 6

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